

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows and cancel claims 2 and 9 without prejudice or disclaimer.

1. (Currently Amended) A multimedia information recording apparatus recording a multimedia information file having a data body [[[DB)]]] including data for forming an image and control information [[[HD, FD)]]] for controlling said data body on a recording medium [[[110)]]] every specific area [[[C)]]] having a specific size, wherein

said recording medium at least has a data area [[[112)]]] where said multimedia information file is recorded and a management information area [[[113)]]] where information for managing the state of arrangement of said multimedia information file recorded in said data area is recorded,

said multimedia information recording apparatus comprising:

file writing means [[[106)]]] for writing said data body and said control information in parallel in at least one of said specific area of said data area being in an empty state capable of data writing; and

link information writing means [[[108)]]] creating area link information [[[FAT)]]] for linking at least one said specific area where said data body and said control information are written by said file writing means according to the sequence for forming said multimedia information file and writing said area link information in said management information area; and

dummy data writing means for writing dummy data in an area being in said empty state in each of at least one said specific area where said data body and said control information are written by said file writing means.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) A multimedia information recording apparatus recording a multimedia information file having a data body [(DB)] including data for forming an image and control information [(HD, FD)] for controlling said data body on a recording medium [(110)] every specific area [(C)] having a specific size while dividing said multimedia information file into a plurality of different multimedia information files on a prescribed position, wherein

said recording medium at least has a data area [(112)] where said multimedia information file is recorded and a management information area [(113)] where information for managing the state of arrangement of said multimedia information file in said data area is recorded,

said multimedia information recording apparatus comprising:

data body changing means [(603)] for duplicating contents recorded in said specific area corresponding to said specific position in said data body and writing said contents obtained by duplication in said specific area of said data area being in an empty state capable of being written with data while writing dummy data [(DM)] with respect to, in two said specific areas where identical said contents are recorded by duplication, respective ones of a precedent area from said prescribed position in one said specific area and a subsequent area from said prescribed position in the other said specific area;

control information generation means [(602, 604)] generating said specific area where said control information for the respective ones of said multimedia information files obtained by division is written; and

link information writing means [(608)] creating area link information [(FAT)] for linking a plurality of said specific areas where said data body and said control information are written, including at least one said specific area where said data body and said control information are written by said data body changing means and said control information generation means, according to the sequence for forming the respective ones of said multimedia information files obtained by division and writing said area link information in said management information area.

4. (Currently Amended) The multimedia information recording apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising dummy data writing means [[[702, 804)]] writing the dummy data [(DM)] in the area of said empty state in said specific area where said control information is written by said control information generation means.

5. (Original) The multimedia information recording apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said control information generation means generates said control information corresponding to the respective ones of said multimedia information files obtained by division in respective ones of a plurality of said specific areas in said data area on the basis of said control information of said multimedia information file before being divided.

6. (Original) The multimedia information recording apparatus according to claim 5, wherein at least one said specific area where said control information of said multimedia information file before being divided has been recorded and at least one said specific area of said empty state in said data area are included in said plurality of specific areas.

7. (Original) The multimedia information recording apparatus according to claim 5, wherein each of said plurality of specific areas is said specific area of said empty state in said data area.

8. (Currently Amended) A multimedia information recording apparatus recording a plurality of multimedia information files [(613, 614)] having data bodies [(DB)] including data for forming images and control information [(HD, FD)] for controlling said data bodies on a recording medium [(110)] every specific area [(C)] having a specific size while connecting said plurality of

multimedia information files into a single multimedia information file [(615)], wherein

said recording medium at least has a data area [(112)] where said multimedia information files are recorded and a management information area [(113)] where information for managing the state of arrangement of said multimedia information files in said data area is recorded,

said multimedia information recording apparatus comprising:

control information generation means [(602, 604)] for generating said specific area where said control information for said multimedia information file obtained by connection is written; [and]

link information writing means [(608)] creating area link information [(FAT)] for linking at least one said specific area where said data bodies of said plurality of multimedia information files are written and said specific area where said control information is written by said control information generation means according to the sequence for forming said multimedia information file obtained by connection and writing said area link information in said management information area; and

dummy data writing means for writing dummy data in an area of said empty state in said specific area where said control information is written by said control information generation means.

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Currently Amended) The multimedia information recording apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said control information generation means has:

changing means [(801)] changing the contents of said specific area where said control information of arbitrary said multimedia information file of

said plurality of multimedia information files is written to said control information for said multimedia information file obtained by connection, and

deletion means ~~[(803)]~~ deleting partial contents of said specific area where said control information of another said multimedia information file of said plurality of multimedia information files is written.

11. (Currently Amended) The multimedia information file recording apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said control information generation means has:

writing means for writing said control information for said multimedia information file obtained by connection in said specific area of said empty state of said data area.

12. (Currently Amended) A multimedia information recording method recording a multimedia information file having a data body ~~[(DB)]~~ including data for forming an image and control information ~~[(HD, FD)]~~ for controlling said data body on a recording medium ~~[(110)]~~ every specific area ~~[(C)]~~ having a specific size, wherein

said recording medium at least has a data area ~~[(112)]~~ where said multimedia information file is recorded and a management information area ~~[(113)]~~ where information for managing the state of arrangement of said multimedia information file recorded in said data area is recorded,

said multimedia information recording method comprising:

a file writing step ~~[(S5 to S16)]~~ of writing said data body and said control information in parallel in at least one said specific area of said data area being in an empty state capable of data writing; ~~[(and)]~~

a link information writing step ~~[(S21)]~~ of creating area link information ~~[(FAT)]~~ for linking at least one said specific area where said data body and said control information are written by said file writing step according to the

sequence for forming said multimedia information file and writing said area link information in said management information area; and

a dummy data writing step of writing dummy data in an area being in said empty state in each of at least one said specific area where said data body and said control information are written by said file writing step.

13. (Currently Amended) A multimedia information recording method recording a multimedia information file having a data body [(DB)] including data for forming an image and control information [(HD, FD)] for controlling said data body on a recording medium [(110)] every specific area [(C)] having a specific size while dividing said multimedia information file into a plurality of different multimedia information files on a prescribed position, wherein

said recording medium at least has a data area [(112)] where said multimedia information file is recorded and a management information area [(113)] where information for managing the state of arrangement of said multimedia information file in said data area is recorded,

said multimedia information recording method comprising:

a data body changing step [(S33, S34)] of duplicating contents recorded in said specific area corresponding to said prescribed position in said data body and writing said contents obtained by duplication in said specific area of said data area being in an empty state capable of being written with data while writing dummy data [(DM)] with respect to, in two said specific areas where identical said contents are recorded by duplication, respective ones of a precedent area from said prescribed position in one said specific area and a subsequent area from said prescribed position in another said specific area;

a control information generation step [(S37 to S45)] of generating said specific area where said control information for the respective ones of said multimedia information files obtained by division is written; and

a link information writing step [(S46)] of creating area link information [(FAT)] for linking a plurality of said specific areas where said data body and

said control information are written, including at least one said specific area where said data body and said control information are written by said data body changing step and said control information generation step, according to the sequence for forming the respective ones of said multimedia information files obtained by division and writing said area link information in said management information area.

14. (Currently Amended) A multimedia information recording method recording a plurality of multimedia information files [(613, 614)] having data bodies [(DB)] including data for forming images and control information [(HD, FD)] for controlling said data bodies on a recording medium [(110)] every specific area [(C)] having a specific size while connecting said plurality of multimedia information files into a single multimedia information file [(615)], wherein

said recording medium at least has a data area [(112)] where said multimedia information files are recorded and a management information area [(113)] where information for managing the state of arrangement of said multimedia information files in said data area is recorded,

said multimedia information recording method comprising:

a control information generation step [(S55 to S63)] of generating said specific area where said control information for said multimedia information file obtained by connection is written; and

a link information writing step [(S66)] of creating area link information [(FAT)] for linking at least one said specific area where said data bodies of said plurality of multimedia information files are written and said specific area where said control information is written by said control information generation step according to the sequence for forming said multimedia information file obtained by connection and writing said area link information in said management information area; and

a dummy data writing step of writing dummy data in an area of said empty state in said specific area where said control information is written by said control information generation step.

15. (Currently Amended) A multimedia information recording apparatus recording a multimedia information file having a data body [(DB)] including data for forming an image and control information [(HD, FD)] for controlling said data body on a recording medium [(110)] every specific area [(C)] having a specific size while dividing said multimedia information file into a plurality of different multimedia information files on a prescribed position, wherein

said recording medium at least has a data area [(112)] where said multimedia information file is recorded and a management information area [(113)] where information for managing the state of arrangement of said multimedia information file in said data area is recorded,

said multimedia information recording apparatus comprising:

data body changing means [(603)] duplicating contents recorded in said specific area corresponding to said prescribed position in said data body and writing said contents obtained by duplication in said specific area of said data area being in an empty state capable of being written with data while writing dummy data [(DM)] with respect to a precedent area from said prescribed position in one said specific area in two said specific areas where identical said contents are recorded by duplication;

control information generation means [(602, 604)] generating said specific area where said control information for the respective ones of said multimedia information files obtained by division is written; and

link information writing means [(608)] creating area link information [(FAT)] for linking a plurality of said specific areas where said data body and said control information are written, including at least one said specific area where said data body and said control information are written by said data body changing means and said control information generation means,

according to the sequence for forming the respective ones of said multimedia information files obtained by division and writing created said area link information in said management information area.

16. (Currently Amended) A multimedia information recording apparatus recording a multimedia information file having a data body [(DB)] including data for forming an image and control information [(HD, FD)] for controlling said data body on a recording medium [(110)] every specific area [(C)] having a specific size while dividing said multimedia information file into a plurality of different multimedia information files on a prescribed position, wherein

said recording medium at least has a data area [(112)] where said multimedia information file is recorded and a management information area [(113)] where information for managing the state of arrangement of said multimedia information file in said data area is recorded,

said multimedia information recording apparatus comprising:

data body changing means [(603)] duplicating data of a subsequent area from said prescribed position in contents recorded in said specific area corresponding to said prescribed position in said data body and writing said contents obtained by duplication in said specific area of said data area being in an empty state capable of being written with data while writing dummy data [(DM)] with respect to an empty area other than the area where said duplicated data is written in said specific area;

control information generation means [(602, 604)] generating said specific area where said control information for the respective ones of said multimedia information files obtained by division is written; and

link information writing means [(608)] creating area link information [(FAT)] for linking a plurality of said specific areas where said data body and said control information are written, including at least one said specific area where said data body and said control information are written by said data body changing means and said control information generation means,

according to the sequence for forming the respective ones of said multimedia information files obtained by division and writing created said area link information in said management information area.

17. (Currently Amended) A multimedia information recording apparatus recording a multimedia information file having a data body $[(DB)]$ including data for forming an image and control information $[(HD, FD)]$ including information as to overall said file and for controlling said data body on a recording medium $[(110)]$, wherein

said control information includes dummy data $[(DM)]$ so that said control information is in a prescribed size,

said multimedia information recording apparatus comprising:

file writing means $[(106, 107)]$ writing said data body and control information including said dummy data $[(DM)]$ on said recording medium $[(110)]$; and

means writing size information indicating the actual size of said control information including said dummy data $[(DM)]$ and the size of said dummy data $[(DM)]$ on said recording medium $[(110)]$.

18. (Currently Amended) A multimedia information reproducing apparatus reproducing a multimedia information file recorded by the multimedia information recording apparatus according to said claim 17 from a recording medium $[(110)]$.

the multimedia information reproducing apparatus skipping an area where dummy data (DM) is written and reproducing control information and a data body of said multimedia information on the basis of size information indicating the actual size of control information including said dummy data (DM) and the size of said dummy data (DM).